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Webb, the well-known member of the Fabian Society. Mr. Webb seems to be better acquainted with the history of the doctrine of incidence than any of the other witnesses, and his account of "economic friction" as qualifying the somewhat absolute conclusions of earlier writers is very suggestive and in line with much of the best recent thought on the subject. But even Mr. Webb is sometimes influenced by "politics," and seeks to make out a stronger case than is warranted for the "poor occupier." Professor Munro speaks especially of the peculiar "chief-rent" system in Manchester, a subject to which he has devoted a special monograph, *The Local Taxation of Chief Rents*. Professor Munro's views are interesting, apart from the value of the facts, chiefly for the reason that he opposes Mill's doctrine of applying the theory of agricultural rent to the rent of building land, and also for the reason that in respect to the ultimate incidence of the rates he supports the conclusions of Mr. Goschen's draft report of 1870.

The incidence of taxation is perhaps the most difficult problem in the whole range of economic science. This short review is intended merely to call attention to the divergence of opinion on a small section of the great problem. For a wider discussion of the problem itself, the student is referred to a monograph by the present writer which will be published shortly. But for all those interested in practical economic questions, the works mentioned in this review will prove helpful and stimulating.

EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN.

The Relation of Labor to the Law of To-Day. By Dr. LUJO BRENTANO. Translated from the German by PORTER SHERMAN, A.M. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1891. — viii, 305 pp.

This translation is a most disappointing performance. Professor Brentano has exercised a salutary influence upon educated opinion and public policy both in Germany and in England. His little treatise, *Das Arbeiterverhältniss gemäss dem Heutigen Recht*, contains in a compact form all his main positions, and it would be doing a useful piece of work to introduce it to the American public in a readable form. For books of this kind are especially wanted on this side of the Atlantic. Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the country, the well-to-do classes are twenty years behind their fellows in England in their attitude towards labor combinations. They rarely distinguish between the essential principles of unionism and the acts of violence which sometimes accompany labor disturbances; and, as the translator justly remarks, "trades unions, . . . communism, socialism, anarchism . . . are jumbled together in men's minds without discrimination, and condemned in the lump."

Brentano's view is perhaps one-sided and exaggerated; he certainly overlooks some difficulties. The historical narrative with which he leads up to modern issues is far too positive for the present state of our knowledge, and includes some more than doubtful hypotheses. But these defects are altogether thrown into the shade by his splendid merits. His strength lies in his sturdy common sense. He does not fly off into the thin air of abstractions, nor alienate by obtrusive sentiment; he rests on the solid ground of observed fact. Trades unions, he shows us, are not mere outbreaks of anarchy; they are an inevitable outcome of modern industrial conditions. Furnishing, as they do, a hope that the position of the masses may be improved without a violent reconstruction of society, they are the best of all arguments against revolutionary teaching, and therefore in the truest sense conservative. And only upon the basis of labor organizations can arbitration — wherein we are beginning to see a way out of some of our troubles — be successfully attempted.

Unfortunately the translation will hardly help these views towards general acceptance. It is most imperfectly accomplished. Not that there are many absolute mistakes; but it is involved, awkward and frequently almost unintelligible. Some general acquaintance with Professor Brentano's works and with German phraseology, makes it possible for me, by reading slowly and disentangling the more complex sentences, to guess what the author may mean. The average employer of labor, unversed in German, will, I fear, give up the attempt after a very few pages. A translator's duty is to render the thought as well as the words of his author: he ought not only to satisfy himself as to the meaning, but also to think it over again in English before he lays it before English readers.

W. J. ASHLEY.

The Eight-Hour Day. By SIDNEY WEBB, LL.B., and HAROLD COX, B.A. New York, A. Lovell & Co.; London, Walter Scott. — vi, 280 pp.

This book has the peculiar merit of discussing the right question at the right time. Besides being eminently practicable, the demand for an eight-hour day is now the most prominent feature of the labor movement throughout Christendom. On all other topics labor organizations differ widely according to the political institutions and economic conditions of their respective countries, yet they all unite in demanding shorter hours of labor, because the great body of laborers, who always want something definite and practicable, really demand it. Consequently, in order to enlist the masses in their movement, social reformers of all